IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

Thomas GODICKE et al.

Serial No.: New Application

Filed: July 12, 2001

For: CONTROLLER INTERNAL BUS SUPPORTING THE TCP/IP PROTOCOL

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-identified application, please enter the following specification changes as noted below:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 9-11 as follows:

9. (Amended) The communications system according to claim 1, characterized by the fact that the link layer of the TCP/IP network (9) is the recommended MAC layer in the Ethernet standard.

10. (Amended) A programmable controller (50) including at least a smart module (20,30) and an internal communications bus (5) for connecting the modules to each other, characterized by the fact that the programmable controller is capable of implementing a communications system according to claim 1.

11. (Amended) Automatism unit characterized by the fact that it includes one or more programmable automata (50) capable of communicating with each other or with the outside world by implementing a communications system according to claim 1.

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 remain pending herein. Claims 9-11 have been amended hereby.

This Preliminary Amendment is submitted to eliminate multiply dependent claims from the above-identified application.

Examination of this application on its merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

PARKHURST & WENDEL, L.L.P.

_____July 12, 2001_____
Date

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Attachment: Claim Mark-ups

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8. The communications system according to claim 3, characterized by the fact that, in a programmable controller (50), a network module (10) connected to TCP/IP network (9) includes:

5   - a driver (19) for access to the link layer of the TCP/IP network (9),

- two IP attachments materialized by a first IP address (15) corresponding to the TCP/IP network (9) and by a second IP address (14) corresponding to the

10   internal communications bus (5) of the controller,

- a TCP/IP stack (2) which may be executed in the network module (10), enabling the frames to be routed between both IP attachments.

9. (Amended) The communications system according

15   to claim 1 ~~any of the preceding claims~~, characterized by the fact that the link layer of the TCP/IP network (9) is the recommended MAC layer in the Ethernet standard.

10. (Amended) A programmable controller (50)

20   including at least a smart module (20,30) and an internal communications bus (5) for connecting the modules to each other, characterized by the fact that the programmable controller is capable of implementing a communications system according to claim 1 ~~any of~~

25   ~~the preceding claims~~.

11. (Amended) Automatism unit characterized by the fact that it includes one or more programmable automata (50) capable of communicating with each other or with the outside world by implementing a communications

30   system according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 9~~.